

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1-6 and claim 16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a). Claims 7-15 and claims 17-19 have been objected to but are otherwise allowable. Claims 1, 8, 11-13, and 17-19 have been amended. Claims 5-7 have been deleted. Claims 20-41 have been newly added.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to FIG. 1, asserting that the figure does not include an output end of the memory element that is directly connected to an end of the optical modulation element. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As taught in the Specification, inverter 11a corresponds to the "output inverter" and inverter 11b corresponds to the "input inverter." Further, the output of the "output inverter" corresponds to the "output end of the memory element". As shown in the figure and as described in the Specification, "the OLED 12 is connected to the output end N1 of the inverter 11a." Specification, page 17, line 23 to page 18, line 1.

Accordingly, the Applicants maintain that, no further amendment to FIG. 1 is necessary as the figure shows the feature recited in claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, and claim 16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of U.S. Published Patent Application Number 2002-0044110 to Prache, et al. ("Prache"). Claim 1 has been

amended to include the recitations of claims 5 and 7, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Accordingly, the grounds for rejection are moot.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that, claims 1-5 and claim 16 are not made obvious by the admitted prior art in view of Prache and, further, satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 100, et seq., especially § 103(a). Accordingly, claims 1-5 and claim 16 are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Objections to claims 7-15 and claims 17-19 are now considered moot in view of the above amendments. Accordingly, claims 8-15 and claims 17-19 are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

The Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

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